

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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INFO PARIS UNESCO 3051

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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TAGS: UNESCO PFOR SOPN DA

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES SWEDISH POSITION AT
UNESCO MEETING; ATTITUDES TOWARD SWEDISH UNSC VOTE ON PLO

REF: COPENHAGEN 3688

SUMMARY: SWEDISH POSITIONS AT THE UNESCO MEETING IN PARIS
AND, EARLIER, IN THE UNSC HAVE BEEN THE OBJECT OF DANISH
CRITICISM. END SUMMARY.

1) IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE DECEMBER 19 POLITIKEN (LEFT-OF-
CENTER-INDEPENDENT), FOREIGN MINISTER K B ANDERSEN SAID
THE DANES WERE OPPOSED TO "POLITIZATION" OF THE UN'S
SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WILL NOT CONTINUE THEIR PARTICI-
PATION IN THE UNESCO EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING. ADDRESSING
THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE
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AN UNFORTUNATE AND DANGEROUS EXAMPLE TO WALK OUT OF AN

INTERNATIONAL MEETING BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT WITH A DECISION, ANDERSEN REPLIED, "I FEEL THAT IT IS A MORE DANGEROUS EXAMPLE TO CONTINUE. I REGRET THAT NORDIC AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED BUT MOST PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND THE ATTITUDE OF DENMARK AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING NORWAY."

2) IN THE DECEMBER 17 ISSUE OF AKTUELT (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH LEAGUE OF TOLERANCE, JENE LILLELUND, WROTE AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO COPENHAGEN, HUNBERT DE BESCHE. LILLELUND'S LETTER CRITICIZED THE EARLIER SWEDISH VOTE IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH ALLOWED PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACCUSED SWEDEN OF "ABUSING ITS NORDIC SEAT IN THE COUNCIL."

3) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LILLELUND IS WELL-KNOWN CHAMPION OF ISRAEL, HIS ATTITUDE ON THE SWEDISH SC VOTE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF GENERAL DANISH ATTITUDES ON THIS QUESTION. DURING A DECEMBER 18 CALL BY EMBOFFS ON MFA'S CHIEF OF UN AFFAIRS, KLAUS KAPEL, THE LATTER ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH THE SWEDISH SECURITY COUNCIL POSITION ON THE PLO. KAPEL WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO SAY THT THERE WAS NO "NORDIC SEAT" ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL. ON THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN ONE OF THE NORDICS OCCUPIES A SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT, THAT COUNTRY IS REGARDED BY THE OTHER NORDICS AS SPEAKING SIMPLY FOR ITSELF AND LITTLE CONSULTATION AMONG THE SCANDINAVIANS TAKESPLACE. ACCORDING TO KAPEL, THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL DISCUSSION OF THE PLO ISSUE BETWEEN THE OTHER NORDICS AND THE SWEDES EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE VOTE. DEAN.

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